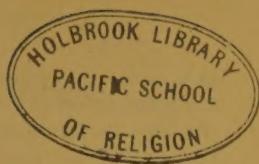


The Christian News-Letter

Edited by
J. H. OLDHAM



No. 150

SEPTEMBER 9TH, 1942

DEAR MEMBER,

Two recent utterances by Roman Catholic prelates in Spain and in Belgium give expression to the deepening understanding by Christians of the unbridgeable cleavage between the Christian conception of universal brotherhood and the doctrines of racialism.

CHRISTIANITY AND RACIALISM

The Bishop of Calahorra in Spain has issued a Pastoral Instruction protesting against the modern ideologies which are vehemently opposed to the Christian faith. The first of these is Communist atheism, but this has met with sufficient condemnation from the Church to be no longer an immediate danger to the consciences of believers. Other errors, "no less opposed to revealed truth and no less grave than the Communist error," are more dangerous. The Bishop goes on to denounce the infiltration into Spain of racialistic doctrines through a Spanish translation of Rosenberg's *Myth of the Twentieth Century*, and criticizes the suppression by the authorities of any references to the Papal condemnations of these doctrines or to the persecution of Roman Catholics in Germany.

"The errors in question," he continues, "are indeed manifestly anti-Christian and even monstrous; it is enough to point them out, separating them from the movements of passion, confusion and partisan fever behind which they seek to conceal themselves, and then the Catholic conscience of our people will reject them energetically."

A still more pronounced denunciation of racialist doctrines is contained in an address by Cardinal van Roey, the Primate of Belgium. He quotes from a book *Gott und Volk* (God and People), widely circulated in German occupied territories, the following passage:

"We are living in decisive times. With the knowledge of the value of race and of blood there has been born a new conception of the whole of life. The epoch of international humanitarian dreams is drawing to a close, and with it the dream of a Christian humanity, which for two thousand years has been troubling men's minds without their ever coming a step nearer to achieving it. Race and people have become sacred ideas. They form the countenance of our time and the law of the future. There are superior races and inferior races by virtue of their blood, the former being destined to dominate the others."

To this the Bishop replies:—

"To that purely materialistic doctrine, it is evident, Christian spiritualism stands in direct opposition. Turning from the conception of life to the view of morality, you will notice immediately the profound difference between the new theory and Christianity. In the first case, morality springs from the doctrine of blood and race: everything that is favourable to the race is good, everything that corrupts or deteriorates the race, or forms an obstacle to the interests of the race, is bad. It is the same with justice: whatever benefits the race is just, whatever injures it is unjust. Clearly, that morality is absolutely incompatible with Catholic morality. The latter lays down absolute rules and common laws, applicable to all men. When we consider in what the true value of man consists, according to the two conceptions, we arrive at the same contradictions. According to the system which we have been analysing, the greatness of man consists

in dominating others : it is force, without regard for anyone, and with no other rules than the supreme interests of the race. Contrariwise, according to Catholic doctrine, the human ideal consists in dominating oneself by renunciation and self-abnegation, by the fight against the passions ; and, as a consequence, in humility, gentleness and charity towards others ; in force, also, but solely against evil and sin."

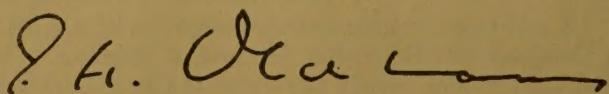
The German disposition to push every tendency to its extreme may be turned to good, if it opens our eyes to where the world is in danger of going. But, if we are sincere in our condemnation of Nazi racialism, we have to get rid of the poison wherever it shows itself. There is plenty of evidence of a wrong and detestable attitude to other races (associated with us in the fight against Nazism) among ourselves.

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND AND PRESENT TASKS

God's Will in our Time,¹ containing the report to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland by its Commission on the " Interpretation of God's Will in the Present Crisis," of which Professor John Baillie is the Chairman, is lifted out of the ordinary run of reports by a distinction both of thought and of style. It is the greater pleasure to call attention to it because, owing to the infrequency of contacts in war time, the Scottish contribution to the thought of the News-Letter has not been as large as I could have wished. The foundation of the Report is a section on the " Presentation of the Christian Faith in the World To-day," which is a masterly theological statement in short space of the significance of the Christian Gospel for the predicament of modern society. The following section is a penetrating and discriminating discussion of the " Nature and Extent of the Church's Concern in the Civil Order "; whether one agrees with every judgment and emphasis or not, the essentials of the problem are so clearly set forth that one cannot fail to derive both instruction and stimulus. No brief treatment of such profound and complex questions can be wholly easy reading, but lucid thought and exposition and felicitous expression give every assistance that can be asked.

We are not sure that all the books mentioned in this week's Supplement are obtainable. Those that are out of print may be available in libraries.

Yours sincerely,



¹ Student Christian Movement Press. 9d., postage extra.

Subscriptions—The rate of subscription to the News-Letter is 12s. 6d. (\$3.0 in U.S.A. and Canada) for one year. Subscriptions for six months (6s. 6d.) can only be accepted for destinations in Great Britain and Ireland. Back numbers—4d. each, 1s. 2d. for 6, 1s. 11d. for 12 copies. Post free.

Bound Volumes—Volume I (Nos. 0-26), Volume II (Nos. 27-52), Volume III (Nos. 53-78), Volume IV (Nos. 79-104), Volume V (Nos. 105-130). Uniformly bound in green cloth with gold lettering and index. 8s. 6d. each, post free.

Sets of four consecutive volumes, covering two years, may be purchased at the special price of 30s.

Indices—Indices to Nos. 0-26, 27-52, 53-78, 79-104, 105-130. 1s. each, post free.

All communications and subscriptions should be sent to—
THE CHRISTIAN NEWS-LETTER, 19 DEAN'S YARD, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W. 1.